[illegible] Peter - Long Beach, Cal DRAWER [illegible] SCULPTORS - B

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Statues of Abraham Lincoln

Peter Bisson

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the

Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

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Lincoln Monument, Pacific Park, Long Beach, Cal.
OLD GLORY

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Note at End

After the erection of the Lincoln Monument in Pacific Park at Long Beach California, the name of the park was changed to Lincoln Park. The statue was chiseled out of Raymond granite by Peter Bisson,

The statue portrays Lincoln in a speaking pose, one hand on lapel one behind him. It is a facsimile of the St. Gaudens statue of Lincoln in Lincoln Park, Chicago. The cost of the monument was $3600, one thousand of which was appropriated by Legislature. It was unveiled in 1915.

LONG BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY
LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA

THEODORA R. BREWITT, LIBRARIAN

October 22, 1928

Louis A. Warren, Director
Lincoln National Life Insurance Co.
Fort Wayne, Ind.

Dear Mr. Warren:

In reply to your inquiry of October 16th concerning the Lincoln monument located in Lincoln Park, Long Beach, California;

The Statue of Abraham Lincoln is a copy of the St. Gauden's statue in Lincoln Park, Chicago. The statue was chiseled out of California (Raymond) granite by Peter Bissoni of the Long Beach monument works. The statue itself is seven feet high and the monument as a whole stands twenty-two feet and six inches high. The total cost of this monument which was unveiled July 3, 1915 was $3000.

If any more information is desired we will be glad to assist you so far as we can.

Very truly yours
Earl H Davis
Head of the Reference dept.

LONG BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY
LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA

THEODORA R. BREWITT, LIBRARIAN

July 14, 1930.

Miss Ethel Henneford,
The Lincoln National Life Insurance Co.,
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Dear Miss Henneford:

In reply to your letter of July 9th concerning the Lincoln monument in this city, we are enclosing a picture and data concerning it. As you will note, it is not a Julia Wendt statue.

Very truly yours,

Earl H. Davis

Head of Reference Department

ABRAHAM LINCOLN MONUMENT

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The name of Pacific park was changed to Lincoln park subsequent to the erection in the park of the Abraham Lincoln memorial monument, which was unveiled on July 3, 1915, and which was dedicated to the veterans of the Civil war. The monument, representing a cost of several thousands of dollars, of which the state appropriated $1,000, through Assembly Bill, No. 519, introduced by Assemblyman Joseph A. Rominger, January 2, 1915, consists of a statue which is a facsimile of the St. Gaudens statue of Lincoln in Lincoln park, Chicago, and an eight-ton die. The statue was chiseled out of Raymond granite by Peter Bisson, an employe of a Long Beach monument firm. The die was from the Academy quarry, near Fresno.

The Citizens' Monument association included: active members, L. W. Archer, W. H. Bennett, D. B. Burger, J. M. Emery, J. S. Hair, P. E. Hatch, William H. Wallace, George W. Wilcox and L. N. Whealton; associate members, Mrs. L. W. Archer, Mrs. Harriet Brown, Mrs. Ella C. Carlin, Mrs. C. E. McDaniel, Mrs. June MacNee, Mrs. Sallie Spooner and Mrs. L. C. Stormont. Officers of the association were: George W. Wilcox, chairman; J. M. Emery, secretary; P. E. Hatch, treasurer; J. S. Hair, general manager; H. C. Russell, assistant to the chairman; S. S. Hammitt, assistant to the general manager. The cornerstone was laid on June 28. Thousands of persons gathered at the park for the unveiling of the monument. Chairman George W. Wilcox presided. Representatives of the Woman's Relief corps, Auxiliary to the Sons of Veterans, Ladies of the G. A. R. and the Auxiliary to the Veterans' Social Union participated in the exercises. When Master John W. Hair, grandson of J. S. Hair, pulled a cord and the monument was unveiled, a flag was hoisted simultaneously to the top of the flagstaff in the park and, at this signal, the national salute of 21 guns was fired from the U. S. S. Chattanooga by Commander Thomas J. Senn.

Colonel James M. Emery presented the monument to the city, Mayor Louis N. Whealton delivering the speech of acceptance. Assemblyman Rominger then presented Lieutenant Governor John M. Eshleman, who spoke as a representative of the state. The dedicatory prayer had been offered by the Rev. A. Ray Moore, and Past Chaplain L. W. Archer pronounced the benediction.

Mrs. Carrie Drake, then president of the Auxiliary to the Sons of Veterans, conceived the idea of some sort of a patriotic monument in 1906, when she wrote to a large fraternal organization of the city asking a donation for "a monument consisting of a heroic soldier figure on a granite pedestal."

In June, 1914, Mrs. L. W. Archer, wife of a past chaplain of the Long Beach G. A. R. who had known Lincoln, undertook the work of raising funds for a Lincoln monument, inspired by her husband's intense admiration for the martyred President. Major J. S. Hair, general manager of the Citizens' Monument association, said in 1915, in his recapitulation of

the movement, "Mrs. Archer has perhaps done more than any other one person in keeping ablaze the enthusiasm and in encouraging the weak-kneed to more vigorous action."

On every Memorial day an exercise in honor of the unknown soldier dead is conducted at the Lincoln monument.

Case's History of Long Beach and vicinity.
v.1

Cost $3600.00

See Press Telegram: June 29, 1915 and July 3, 1919.